

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus for performing branch processing according to a user indicated selection from displayed graphics, comprising a processor programmed to display graphics generated from data included in a data file, detect a user indicated selection from said displayed graphics, read information of branch processing included in said data file, and perform said branch processing according to said user indicated selection.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a user manipulated pointing device providing said user indicated selection to said processor.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said user manipulated pointing device is a computer mouse providing user selected display coordinate and user selected control information to said processor.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data is stored in a data portion of said data file, and said information of branch processing is stored in a header portion of said data file.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for an executable program executed upon detection of said user indicated selection.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of executable programs organized into branches of executable programs individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a workflow executed upon detection of said user indicated selection.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said workflow information includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of workflows organized into branches of workflows individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein information for each of said plurality of workflows includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

11. An apparatus for performing branch processing according to a user indicated selection from displayed graphics, comprising:

means for displaying graphics generated from data included in a data file;

means for detecting a user indicated selection from said displayed graphics;

means for reading information of branch processing included in said data file; and

means for performing said branch processing according to said user indicated selection.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said detecting means includes:

a user manipulated pointing device; and

means for receiving coordinate and control information indicative of said user indicated selection from said user manipulated pointing device.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said data is stored in a data portion of said data file, and said information of branch processing is stored in a header portion of said data file.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for an executable program executed after detection of said user indicated selection.

15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of executable programs organized into branches of executable programs individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

16. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a workflow executed after detection of said user indicated selection.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said workflow information includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

18. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of workflows organized into branches of workflows individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein information for each of said plurality of workflows includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

20. A computer readable medium stores a data file comprising:

a data portion having graphics data displayable on a computer display screen; and

a header portion having branch processing information including identification of a process option to be executed after detection of a user indicated selection from displayed graphics generated from said graphics data.

21. The computer readable medium according to claim 20, wherein said branch processing information includes information for a plurality of process options organized into branches of process options selectable according to said user indicated selection.

22. The computer readable medium according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said plurality of process options is an executable program, and said information of

branch processing includes an executable name and execution parameters for that at least one executable program.

23. The computer readable medium according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said plurality of process options is a workflow, and said information of branch processing includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters for that at least one workflow.

24. A computer implemented method for performing branch processing according to a user indicated selection from displayed graphics, comprising:

displaying graphics generated from data included in a data file;

detecting a user indicated selection from said displayed graphics;

reading information of branch processing included in said data file; and

performing said branch processing according to said user indicated selection.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein said detecting a user indicated selection from displayed graphics, comprises receiving coordinate and control information indicative of said user indicated selection from a user manipulated pointing device.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said coordinate information defines a point location on a computer display screen displaying said displayed graphics.

27. The method according to claim 25, wherein said coordinate information defines an area on a computer display screen displaying said displayed graphics.

28. The method according to claim 25, wherein said coordinate information indicates one of a plurality of images displayed on a computer display screen.

29. The method according to claim 24, wherein said data is stored in a data portion of said data file, and said information of branch processing is stored in a header portion of said data file.

30. The method according to claim 24, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for an executable program executed after detection of said user indicated selection.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein said executable program information includes an executable name and execution parameters for said executable program.

32. The method according to claim 24, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of executable programs organized into branches of executable programs individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

33. The method according to claim 24, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a workflow executed after detection of said user indicated selection.

34. The method according to claim 23, wherein said workflow information includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

35. The method according to claim 24, wherein said information of branch processing includes information for a plurality of workflows organized into branches of workflows individually selectable according to said user indicated selection.

36. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein information for each of said plurality of workflows includes an executable name, a workflow name, and execution parameters.

37. The method according to claim 24, wherein said reading information of branch processing provided with said input data, comprises reading said information from said header.

38. The method according to claim 24, wherein said displayed graphics is in the form of a graph appearing on a computer display screen.

39. The method according to claim 24, wherein said displayed graphics is in the form of a chart appearing on a computer display screen.

40. The method according to claim 24, wherein said displayed graphics is in the form of a set of images appearing on a computer display screen.

41. The method according to claim 24, wherein said performing said branch processing according to said user indicated selection, comprises:

selecting a process branch according to control information included in said user indicated selection; and

performing a process option in said process branch.

42. The method according to claim 41, wherein said selecting a process branch according to control information included in said user indicated selection, comprises:

selecting a first process branch if said control information resulted from a user activating a first control on a pointing device; and

selecting a second process branch if said control information resulted from said user activating a second control on said pointing device.

43. The method according to claim 41, wherein said selected process includes one process option, and said performing a process option in said process branch, comprises executing said one process option according to coordinate information included in said user indicated selection.

44. The method according to claim 41, wherein said selected process branch includes a plurality of process options, and said performing a process option in said process branch, comprises:

displaying a menu of said plurality of process options;

detecting a user selected process option from said displayed menu; and

executing said user selected process option according to coordinate information included in said user indicated selection from said displayed graphics.